
FY 2019
SMALL NEPA PROJECT DESCRIPTION
Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests

Please **do not leave any field BLANK**, unless it does not apply.
Submit form (Word doc) electronically to jjchynoweth@fs.fed.us by **November 7, 2018**.

(NOTE: Italicized / red comments are for reference only. You may delete them when completing form.)

Project Name	Natural Barrier Stream Protection
District Name (or "Forestwide")	Salmon River Ranger District
County where project located?	Idaho
FS Personnel Name, Phone Number and Email <i>If a partnership, please add name, phone and email; however, an FS employee MUST BE the project proponent and point of contact.</i>	Crystal Dannar 839-2128 cdannar@fs.fed.us
Legal Location <i>Township(s), Range(s), and Section(s) of project.</i>	Locations within Idaho County, B.M. Johnson Creek: T27N, R1E, Sec 19, Pts N2. Deer Creek: T27N, R1W, Sec 11-12, Pts S2. S.F. Christie Creek: T27N, R1E, Sec 31, Pts S2. T26N, R1E, Sec 5-6, Pts N2. Sherwin Creek: T26N, R1E, Sec 7-9, 16. China Creek: T26N, R1E, Sec 30, Pts N2. Papoose Creek: T24N, R1W, Sec 24-26. Fish Creek: T29N, R3E, Sec 21, Pts NE. Tollgate Creek: T29N, R3E, Sec 34, Pts S2. Pinnacle Creek (Swartz Meadow): T28N, R3E, Sec 8, Pts N2. Schwartz Cr: T30N, R4E, Sec 33, Pts NWSW
District Ranger / Line Officer's Name <i>Person(s) responsible for signing the decision document</i>	Jeffrey Shinn
Is the project associated with meeting a Forest target?	No
Which CE Category does this project fit? <i>Provide citation: 36 CFR 220.6(e)(x)</i> <i>See below regarding 220.6(d) projects.</i>	36 CFR 220.6(e)(9) Implementation or modification of minor management practices to improve allotment condition or animal distribution when an allotment management plan is not yet in place.

A Project Record or written Decision are not required for projects using 36 CFR 220.6 (d) categories.

If a 36 CFR 220.6 (d) project, does the Decision Maker want it to go through the Small NEPA process?

Yes No

*If no, this form **does not** need to be filled out nor submitted to the Small NEPA planner.*

If yes, provide the category below, complete the remainder of this form and have Decision Maker submit it to the Small NEPA planner.

CE Category: 36 CFR 220.6 (d)()

At what level does the Decision Maker want the project scoped?

Internal X External*

Internal scoping will be through the Small NEPA IDT, unless otherwise specified. Scoping would be documented in the Extraordinary Circumstances Checklist.

*External scoping will be with the public via a scoping letter, a legal notice, and the scoping letter posted on the NPCWNF website. Postcards with a link to the website/scoping letter will be used for larger mailings. The Project will only be scoped to the Tribe(s) et al (see * below), unless otherwise specified.*

**For external scoping, please to complete block below. Note: please enter "NA" if left empty on purpose*

Provide a list of the individuals, groups, agencies, etc. *, with their mailing address and/or email address, who will be included for external Scoping. DO NOT provide only a name.

NA

** The Nez Perce and Coeur d'Alene Tribes will routinely be scoped. The following will also be included on all SN scoping/ mailing lists: Friends of the Clearwater, Idaho Conservation League, Thomas E. Peterson and Bill Mulligan.*

What Level of Analysis (below) does the Decision Maker want for the Project?

- X **Low level:** If the project's level of public scrutiny is projected to be relatively low or unknown, the line officer chooses who we would contact for scoping (limited). In this case specialists would only do the checklist for each project. Documentation for low level analysis projects would be a completed checklist filled out by the specialists, including the name of the specialist who performed the analysis, the project name, and date it was completed. No other written documentation would be generated.
- _____ **Moderate level:** If the project's level of public scrutiny is projected to be relatively moderate to high, then the line officer chooses who we would contact for scoping (a little broader). In this case, specialists would complete the checklist with the only write up being for items that are present and the rationale for the effects call. No write up would be given for items in the checklist that are not present. If the determination is no effect (which generally speaking, most CE's should have zero to very little adverse effects), then document why that determination was made in one paragraph or less. If the determination is an adverse effect, then why that determination was made would be written in less three paragraphs.

List the Management Area(s) in which your project is located.

20 - Old Growth - Fish Creek, Tollgate Creek, Johnson Creek, Papoose Creek, Pinnacle Creek
12 - Timber – Deer Creek, China Creek, Pinnacle Creek
17 - Timber/Visual – S.F. Christie Creek, Sherwin Creek
17/19- Elk – Sherwin Creek
16 - Winter Range – S.F. Christie Creek,
15D – Timber/Winter Range - Schwartz Creek

What are the desired conditions (*relevant to your project*) for the Management Area(s) listed above?

Water (All MA's). Meet established fishery/water quality objectives for all prescription watersheds as shown in Appendix A.

Range (MA 12) Non-structural Improvement – Delay range forage improvements until regeneration has established.
(MA 19) Non-structural Improvement – Emphasize investments in structural and non-structural range improvements to maintain range condition.

Desired conditions are described in Chapters 2 & 3 of the Nez Perce and Clearwater Forest Plans.

Is the project in an Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA)? Yes* No X

If yes, which one?

** If yes, fill in the 'Project in Roadless Area' table below, **AND** complete a Briefing Paper - note map requirements. Provide the completed Briefing Paper to the Environmental Coordinator and Brian Riggers prior to scoping.*

Is the project in a congressionally designated area, ex. Wilderness Area, Wild & Scenic River Corridor, Research Natural Area, Historic Trail, etc.? Yes* No X

If yes, which one(s)?

** If yes, contact Carol Hennessey, cahennessey@fs.fed.us, 935-4270, BEFORE submitting this proposal, to discuss how the project may affect the designated area.*

Are there Floodplains or Wetlands in the project area? Yes X No

Are there Municipal Watersheds in the project area? Yes No X

If yes, which one?

Is the project located in an RHCA? Yes X No

Describe the existing condition of the project area.

Christie Creek Allotment:

Johnson Creek –This stream reach has undergone a lot of scrutiny resulting from livestock impacts along this tributary to Deer Creek. The stream reach of concern is in a gully in a heavily timbered area that already has a lot of jack-straw timber in the surrounding area. This reach can easily be made inaccessible to livestock, with the exception of select crossings and watering locations, by directionally felling timber.

Deer Creek – Deer Creek is parallel to FS trail 103 which is typically used to trail livestock off forest. Deer Creek serves as a primary water source for livestock in this drainage. A trough mid-reach has been installed to minimize impacts. The area was burned in the 2007 Poe Cabin Fire and as a result experiences a lot of blow down of snags; however, sections of the stream remain accessible to livestock. Strategic directional felling would try to direct cattle activity back onto trail 103 and minimize stream impacts to select crossings and watering locations.

S.F. Christie Creek – The upper portion of this stream reach has been fenced with an enclosure, which has suffered many blow downs creating a jack-straw which now protects the channel, also the lower reach within Christie Creek pasture underwent BMP monitoring in 2018 and scored well. This project would propose felling within Grave Point pasture to bridge the gap between this jack straw enclosure area and Christie Creek pasture to ensure livestock use is limited to select crossings and watering locations to maintain the streams health and an upward trend.

Sherwin Creek Allotment:

Sherwin Creek – Sherwin Creek runs parallel to an ATV trail which may be used to trail livestock between pastures, and by livestock to access water. Sherwin Creek serves as a primary water source for livestock in this drainage. Two troughs have been installed on adjacent uplands to draw livestock away from the stream to disperse utilization and minimize impacts. Two exclosures exist within the reach but are ineffective. Strategic directional felling would replace these exclosures and minimize trailing within the stream channel.

Cow Creek Allotment:

China Creek – China Creek runs parallel to FS Road 672F which may be used to trail livestock between pastures, and by livestock to access water. China Creek serves as a primary water source for livestock in this drainage. One reservoir is located within a half mile of the reach to draw livestock out of the creek bottom and onto adjacent bunchgrass hillsides. This reach is easily accessible to livestock, which frequently travel within the streambed. Strategic directional felling would minimize trailing within the stream channel and swampy areas.

Papoose Allotment:

Papoose Creek – Papoose Creek runs parallel to FS Road 517 “Seven Devils Road”. Papoose Creek serves as a primary water source for livestock in this drainage. One trough is located within a half-mile of the reach to draw livestock out of the creek bottom, but has only had marginal success. This reach is easily accessible to livestock, which frequently travel within the streambed. The Papoose Spring area within this reach has a semi-developed campsite with increases public-livestock interactions. This project proposes to create a clean site for campers to collect water by limiting livestock access to the stream. This will be accomplished through a combination of tree felling downstream of the spring and an exclosure at the spring site. Fencing will be accomplished through a separate Small NEPA project, refer to Papoose Spring Exclosure.

White Bird Creek Allotment:

Fish Creek, Tallapoosa Creek, Pineapple Creek (Six Forks, Meadows). These three stream reaches are all located

What is the Purpose and Need for the proposed action*?

This proposed action is a result of annual streambank monitoring by the District Range Staff over the years, as well as, BMP monitoring conducted in the summer of 2018. Collectively, this monitoring has brought awareness to livestock impacts to streams that have not yet been addressed, or were once addressed through installation of exclosure fences, but have been effective. So often fencing is the first response to solving stream issues in relation to livestock, but is rarely the only option worth considering. Fencing creates additional work and cost for permittees and/or USFS to maintain, and often with marginal success due to fallen timber, aging infrastructure, lack of time/money to maintain, etc. By choosing to directionally fall timber in areas where livestock impacts are greatest and that lend themselves to be “logged up”, we are able to hasten the natural process to provide reliable, long-term, and consistently effective resource protection. Since streams are often adjacent to trailing routes, it is important to make the distinction that the intention and objective is to limit watering access and prevent trailing within the stream, not the trailing of livestock in the area. Adjacent trailing routes will be kept open, unless alternative routes are available.

** The purpose and need describes: Why is the action being proposed at this location at this time (what is the problem, the need for the action?)? And what is the desired goal/outcome (the purpose) of the action?*

Describe the Proposed Action.

What is provided will be used in the Scoping Letter (*external only*), by the resource specialists for their effects analyses, and in the Decision document.

Will the project change access restrictions? If so, how? **No.**

Will any permits, etc. be needed before the project can start? If so, what and from who? **No.**

Personnel/Materials: The USFS will provide labor for tree felling. Any resulting exclosure removal will be done with help of the assigned Permittee.

Location/Access:

Equipment/Disturbance: Disturbance will be limited to existing ATV access and use of chain saws. Ground disturbance is anticipated to be minor.

Construction: Dead/dying, and/or live timber (when dead/dying is not available) will be directionally felled to limit livestock access to above-mentioned streams to restore/preserve stream health. Areas of focus along stream reaches will be where livestock impacts are greatest, and naturally lend themselves to be "logged up". The objective is to limit stream trailing, and to direct use to crossing locations and watering access points.

The number of trees felled will vary by location, but will maintain the shade characteristics and wildlife habitat qualities present prior to the activity.

Where barbed wire and/or post-rail fence exclosures exist, the objective is to replace them with natural barriers. I.e. Swartz Meadow, Schwartz Creek, S.F. Christie Creek, Sherwin Creek, Schwartz Creek.

Monitoring: Streambank monitoring occurs routinely during the grazing season and will be conducted post-implementation.

Schedule: Upon approval, work may start Spring 2019 and will likely take more than one year to complete. Effectiveness will be evaluated, and additional work may take place in the following years.

List the Design Criteria / Mitigation Measures * to be included with the Proposed Action.

Item #	Project Design & Mitigation Measures	Implementation Method	Effectiveness
1	Remove all mud, dirt, and plant parts from all off road equipment before moving into project area. Cleaning must occur off National Forest lands. (This does not apply to service vehicles that will stay on the roadway, traveling frequently in and out of the project area.)	Applicable to all activities and personnel	High, based on inventories
2	Identify and report invasive species infestations, on or adjacent to the activity sites, to the District Weed Coordinator.	Applicable to all activities and personnel	High, based on inventories

** Additional Design Criteria/Measures can be listed under "Additional Information" on the last page of this form*

Small NEPA IDT/resource specialists are listed below. Contact them if you have any questions regarding their resource for your project.

Botany – Mike Hays, mhays01@fs.fed.us; 983-4028

Fisheries – Derrick Bawdon, dbawdon@fs.fed.us;

Heritage – Steve Lucas, slucas@fs.fed.us; 983-4040

Hydrology – Cynthia Valle, cvalle@fs.fed.us; 963-4203

Minerals – Marty Jones, martinjones@fs.fed.us; 983-5158

Recreation – Carol Hennessey, cahennessey@fs.fed.us; 935-4270

Soils – Robert Bergstrom, robertbergstrom@fs.fed.us; 963-4287

Wild and Scenic River – Chris Noyes, chnoyes@fs.fed.us; 935-4251

Wildlife – Jim Lutes, jamesrlutes@fs.fed.us; 963-4202

PROJECT MAPS

Please send – separate from this form and per the instructions outlined below – a GIS-generated map or maps of the project area (pdf format only) with the project submission email.

- Make sure that the map layers can be turned on / off / are editable.
- Make sure the map(s) fits on an 8.5 x 11 sheet of paper.

Provide at least one map, preferably “portrait” orientation, with the project area / features as:

- a Point, e.g. culvert, bridge, etc.,
- a Line, e.g. fence, road, creek, etc., and/or
- a Polygon, e.g. stand boundaries, treatment areas, etc.
 - Do not use a point if treating an area, use a polygon.
 - Points/lines/polygons need to be distinct and easily found on the map.
 - The project area / site needs to be centered on the map, especially if only one area/feature.

Please use the Forest Visitor Map as your map’s base layer.

- Do not add contour lines to the FV map unless needed for clarifying the proposed action. Contour lines can make the map difficult to read.
 - If contour lines are needed, make sure they are distinguishable from other linear features such as roads, trails, streams, etc.
- A topo map can be substituted for the FV map. If using a topo map but the contour lines are not important the topo lines should be light gray or opaque.
- Regardless of base map, make sure there are identifiable elements, e.g. towns, roads, streams, etc. on the map to help locate the project area on the landscape and that the elements are clearly labeled.

The preferred map scale (typically 1:24K) is whatever scale best presents the project area’s location and proposed activities:

- If the 1:24K scale is too small (i.e. the project feature(s) – point/line/polygon – would be hard to find or would be indistinguishable on just one map), use a larger scale to show the overall project area (coarse scale map) and smaller scaled maps to show the project features (fine scale map).
- If the 1:24K scale is too big (i.e. the project feature is a tiny point or thin line lost/hard to find on the larger landscape), use a smaller scale to highlight the feature while ensuring there are elements on the map to identify the project’s location.
- If you need to make additional maps, please make as few as possible.

At a minimum, all maps should include (with the preferred but not set in stone location on the map):

- a Title (project name and district name only (please); centered at top)
- a Legend (features clearly labeled; lower right corner)
- a Scale (in half mile, e.g. 0__0.25__0.5 miles, or full miles, e.g. 0__0.25__0.5__1.0 miles; lower left corner)
- a North Arrow (upper right corner)
 - Display all of the above in boxes with black outlines and a white backgrounds (not gray or yellow)
 - Do not ‘Halo’ the text or numbers or anything else on the map. Please.
 - The Scale needs to be large enough to read the numbers.

Finally, please include the mapmakers name and the date it was created on the map.

The Map(s) you provide will be used for Scoping the Public and the Tribes and in the Decision document. Please make sure they show – clearly, effectively, and professionally – what activity or activities are being proposed and where they are located on the Nez Perce - Clearwater National Forests.

SHAPEFILES

The resource specialists require the shapefile(s) of the project's proposed activities before they will conduct their analyses. Providing the shapefile does not substitute for providing a pdf map.

The Project Proponent needs to send the shapefile, or a location where the shapefile can be found, to the Small NEPA Planner (currently: jjchynoweth@fs.fed.us) by the time or shortly after the District Ranger submits this form.

- Shapefiles need to include the Project Name and have the Feature (culvert, bridge, etc.) labeled.
- Shapefiles need to include the following extensions – .dbf, .prj, .sbn, .shp, .shx, and .xml.

PROPONENT: When submitting the shapefile(s) you must include in the email how the location(s) of the project feature(s), i.e. line, point, and/or polygon, were determined (see below):

- Field-collected GPS data;
- From existing corporate GIS data (provide name of GIS layer);
- Created (digitized) from an aerial photo;
- Created (digitized) from the existing corporate GIS data;
- Created (digitized) from the NPCLW Visitor Map;
- Other (describe).

Projects in Roadless Area

<p>What is the Inventoried Roadless Area name?</p> <p><i>O:\NFS\NezPerceClearwater\Project\MultiBasin\Planning\Small_NEPA_Cat_Ex\Reference Material\Roadless Rule Info</i></p>	<p><u>Forest Plan IRA Name (if different):</u></p>
<p>Identify the Idaho Roadless Management Classification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Wild Land Recreation</i> • <i>Special Areas of Historic or Tribal Significance</i> • <i>Primitive</i> • <i>Backcountry Restoration</i> • <i>General Forest, Rangeland and Grassland</i> 	<p>Classification(s):</p>
<p>Does the project involve constructing or reconstructing roads? Yes* No</p> <p>* If yes, see http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2 then navigate to Subpart C 294.23</p>	
<p>Does the project involve cutting trees? Yes* No</p> <p>* If yes, see http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2 then navigate to Subpart C 294.24</p>	
<p>Does the project involve removing minerals, including common variety minerals? Yes* No</p> <p>* If yes, see http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2 then navigate to Subpart C 294.25</p>	

Additional Information: